

THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

HOPE ROBERTS,

Plaintiff,

v.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 OF
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, d/b/a
VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER,

Defendant.

NO. 2:21-cv-00928-RSL

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

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[Case No. 2:21-cv-00928]

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1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
3 produced or otherwise exchanged: personnel files, protected health information, other
4 identifying, financial, and personal information of current and/or former employees of Valley
5 Medical Center (“VMC”), and Sensitive Security Information as defined by Federal regulation.

6 3. SCOPE

7 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
8 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material;
9 (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any
10 testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal
11 confidential material.

12 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is
13 in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

14 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

15 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is
16 disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for
17 prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be
18 disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement.
19 Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a
20 secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

21 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise
22 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may
23 disclose any confidential material only to:

24 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as
25 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this
26 litigation;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

(c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

(d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

(e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

(f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential

information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or

ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

(a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

1 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

2 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
3 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
4 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
5 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
6 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
7 original designation is disclosed.

8 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
9 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding
10 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or
11 in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer
12 conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action.
13 The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith
14 effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

15 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
16 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
17 Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
18 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
19 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
20 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to
21 maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

22 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
23 LITIGATION

24 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
25 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL,"
26 that party must:

1 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of
2 the subpoena or court order;

3 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
4 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
5 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

6 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
7 by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

9 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
10 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement,
11 the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the
12 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the
13 protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were
14 made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the
15 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

16 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
17 MATERIAL

18 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
19 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
20 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
21 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
22 order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties
23 agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

24 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

25 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
26 party must use reasonable best efforts to destroy all confidential material, including all copies,

1 extracts and summaries thereof. The parties recognize that electronically stored information
 2 (“ESI”) results in copies made due to back up and archive protocols and no party can guaranty
 3 that every copy has been found and deleted. Therefore, the parties commit to use best
 4 reasonable efforts to delete confidential information instead of returning it. The parties will use
 5 best reasonable efforts to delete confidential information from Concordance, Summation,
 6 Relativity or similar document review/management programs and will use best reasonable
 7 efforts to destroy any hard copies made of confidential information, as well as confidential ESI
 8 stored in other locations.

9 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain for a period of seven years,
 10 one archival copy of all documents including but not limited to documents filed with the court,
 11 trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
 12 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials
 13 contain confidential material.

14 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
 15 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

16 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

17 DATED: January 13, 2022

FOSTER GARVEY PC

18 By: /s/ Andrea Bradford

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Attorneys for Valley Medical Center

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1 DATED: January 13, 2022

SCHROETER, GOLDMARK & BENDER

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EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty
 of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
 was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date]
 in the case of *Hope Roberts v. Public Hospital District No. 1 of King County, Washington,*
d/b/a Valley Medical Center, United States District Court for the Western District of
 Washington, Case No. 2:21-cv-00928-RSL. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all
 the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure
 to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I
 solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is
 subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance
 with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for
 the Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

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ORDER

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED: January 14, 2022.



The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik
United States District Court Judge

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